



**Board of Supervisors**  
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Sheila Kuehl, 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
Janice Hahn, 4<sup>th</sup> District  
Kathryn Barger, 5<sup>th</sup> District

## LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR OLDER ADULTS

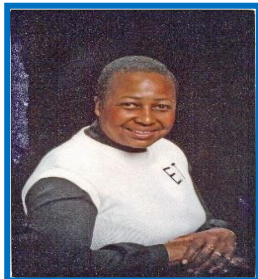
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<http://wdacs.lacounty.gov/>



### 2018-2019 COMMISSIONER BIOGRAPHIES



#### **ESTELLA BEAVER-THOMAS**

Commissioner Estella “ET” Beaver-Thomas has volunteered and is a member of the Congress of California Seniors, the California Senior Legislature, the California Association of Retired Americans, the Service Employees International Union 721 Senior Committee, and the City of Los Angeles Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Council. Commissioner Estella Beaver-Thomas joined LACCOA in May 2014.



#### **MARGARET “MAGGIE” BELTON**

Commissioner Margaret “Maggie” Belton is a retired Registered Nurse and Clinical Social Worker. She worked for the Personal Assistance Services Council from 2000-2005, and for St. Joseph’s Hospital from 1975-1980. She is currently an In-Home Supportive Services Stakeholder Advisory Committee Member. Commissioner Margaret Belton joined LACCOA in December 2013.



#### **ROBERT BOLLER**

Commissioner Robert Boller is the Director of Project Angel Food, a non-profit organization that delivers food to residents of Los Angeles County that are unable to shop or cook for themselves. He is currently a member of Hunger Action Los Angeles (HALA). HALA works to end hunger and promotes healthy eating through advocacy, direct service, and organizing. Commissioner Robert Boller joined LACCOA in February 2016.



#### **MARVA COOPER BELL**

Commissioner Marva Cooper Bell is a retired Human Services Manager. Since retiring, Commissioner Bell with more than 35 years of experience provides human resource management support to non-profit organizations, universities, and corporations. She also spends time volunteering at Jenesse Center, a domestic violence intervention program. Commissioner Marva Cooper Bell joined LACCOA in March 2016.



### **KIM BOWMAN**

Commissioner Kim Bowman is an attorney in Los Angeles County. He is also a Captain in the United States Air Force Reserve and a member of the Air Force Judge Advocate General's Corps Reserve. He has served on the boards of community nonprofits and associations, including a hospital community advisory council, children's learning centers, as chair of a community council, and in 2016 he ran for Lt. Governor of Utah. Commissioner Bowman was appointed to LACCOA in June 2018.



### **ALICE CRAFT**

Commissioner Alice Craft is a retired Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Special Education Assistant, and has over 10 years of experience serving as a caregiver for older adults. She received numerous awards from organizations such as Boy Scouts of America, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, LAUSD, and Service Employees International Union. Commissioner Alice Craft joined LACCOA in March 2016.



### **JERRY GAINES**

Commissioner Jerry Gaines is a U.S. Navy Veteran who retired from the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District – Secondary Education. He was recognized as the Los Angeles County Teacher of the Year and awarded the U.S. Congress Award for serving as Chair of the Military Reuse Committee. Commissioner Jerry Gaines joined LACCOA in October 2015.



### **RUTH E. GONZALES**

Commissioner Ruth Gonzales is a retired teacher, accounting clerk, and receptionist. In 2002, West Covina Elementary School recognized her as Teacher of the Year. The 58<sup>th</sup> Assembly District declared her Woman of the Year in 2012. Since her retirement in 2005, she volunteers at the South El Monte Senior Center's Bingo Night every Tuesday. Commissioner Ruth Gonzales joined LACCOA in September 2015.



### **RAYMOND HALL**

Commissioner Raymond Hall is a U.S. Marine Corps Veteran who has extensive knowledge of the issues Veterans face and founded A Senior Salute, Inc. A Senior Salute was developed to recognize senior Veterans for their life service. He volunteers for the California Senior Legislature and the American Legion Post 109. Commissioner Raymond Hall joined LACCOA in October 2016.



### **OLEETA IGAR**

Commissioner Oleeta Igar has 21 years of experience working in Social Services. She currently works as a manager for Community Partnership, at the Personal Assistance Services Council (PASC). PASC is the public authority for In-Home Supportive Services in Los Angeles County. Commissioner Oleeta Igar joined LACCOA in July 2015.



### **KYOO PAUL JHIN**

Commissioner Paul Jhin retired from the U.S. Peace Corps in 2009, where he served as Director for the Office of Planning, Policy, and Analysis. He spends time volunteering with the California Postsecondary Education Commission and the Los Angeles County Citizen's Economic and Efficiency Commission. In 2015, he was the recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. He joined LACCOA in July 2014.



### **DIANA LOVE**

Commissioner Diana Love is retired. She has served as a past Field Representative for the California State Assembly, Consultant for Parents Anonymous, Inc., Chair of Antelope Valley PFLAG, AARP chapter and Past Board President for the AV House of Deliverance for Battered Women. Commissioner Love serves as Chair on the City of Palmdale Mobile home Rental Review Board, member of the MHA-AV advisory Committee and member of the California Senior Legislature as a Senior Senator. In 2017, she was honored to receive the LINK Award from LACCOA. She joined LACCOA in April 20, 2015.



### **CATHY McCLURE**

Commissioner Cathy McClure is Professional Fundraiser, currently working as the Director of Development for the Discovery Cube Los Angeles. She spent over 20 years with the United Way of Greater Los Angeles raising funds for Health and Human Services throughout the County of Los Angeles. She served on the board of the Rio Hondo Chapter of the American Red Cross and was the first women chairperson. Cathy served as Commissioner in Social Services for the City of Whittier for 10 years working to enhance the non-profit community in Whittier. Commissioner Cathy McClure joined LACCOA in January 2018.



#### **GAYLE MCKINNEY**

Commissioner Gayle McKinney is a retired Medical Equipment Store Manager. She serves on the Board of the Alhambra Family Guidance Center, San Gabriel Valley YMCA, and the Alhambra Case Management Board. In 2015, she was honored by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and LACCOA, at the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Older Americans Recognition Day Awards. Commissioner Gayle McKinney joined LACCOA in May 2015.



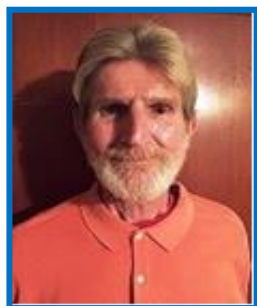
#### **BARBARA MELTZER**

Commissioner Barbara Meltzer is a President of Barbara Meltzer & Associates, a Los Angeles-based Public Relations and Marketing Agency, specializing in nonprofits, authors and aging-related education, services and products. Prior to opening her agency, Commissioner Meltzer served as NBC-TV's Director of Network Creative Services, in addition to spending 10-years on the Tonight Show with Johnny Carson. She also serves on Purposeful Aging LA's Action Planning Work Group, AARP California's Livable Communities Advisory Team and West Hollywood's Human Services Commission. She was appointed to LACCOA in 2007.



#### **IRENE MENDOZA**

Commissioner Irene Mendoza retired from Svorinich Government Affairs, and served twelve years as District Director of Constituent Services for Los Angeles City Council District 15. She worked with the community on several projects including the Vincent Thomas Bridge Lighting, Wilmington Senior Center, Banning Landing Community Center, and the Fishing Memorial Monument. She served on numerous non-profit boards, and currently is an active member of San Pedro Chamber of Commerce, YWCA of LA Harbor Area, and San Pedro Wednesday Senior Club. Commissioner Mendoza was appointed to LACCOA in 2017.



#### **PETER MEZZA**

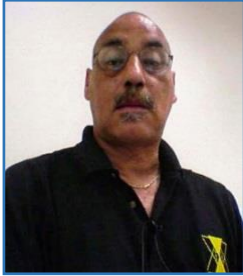
Commissioner Peter Mezza is a retired Housing Authority Administrator for the City of Santa Monica. He worked over 25 years in Social Services and Community Corrections. Currently, Commissioner Mezza serves on the Board of Teen Line, an organization that focuses on adolescent suicide prevention. His academic studies earned him multiple degrees in Government, Urban Studies, and Public Administration. Commissioner Peter Mezza joined LACCOA in February 2016.





### **SHEILA MOORE**

Commissioner Sheila Moore, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, is the Senior Director of Comprehensive Older Adult Services for Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles. She worked with older adults and their families facilitating support groups for caregivers for 30 years. She is an active public speaker, educator, and clinician. Commissioner Sheila Moore joined LACCOA in July 2016.



### **MICHAEL NEELY**

Mr. Neely founded the Homeless Outreach Program in 1988 and served as its director until his retirement. He served on the Downtown Strategic Plan Committee which provided the guidelines for the development of Downtown Los Angeles. He also served on the Los Angeles Homeless Services Commission and the Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Commission. Currently he is a member of the Congressional Black Caucus Veterans Braintrust and serves on the board of several non-profits. He is a Vietnam veteran. He currently resides in Los Angeles.



### **ARLENE OKAMOTO**

Commissioner Arlene Okamoto is a retired Senior Services Coordinator for Methodist Hospital of Southern California. She served on the Board of Directors for the Red Cross, American Cancer Association, and Wellness Community Board. In support of her husband, she enjoys advocating on behalf of Veteran issues. Commissioner Arlene Okamoto joined LACCOA in July 2015.



### **ELIZABETH PAYNE**

Commissioner Elizabeth Payne is a retired Activity Director for the City of Inglewood. She worked with older adults for over 40 years. She currently volunteers with the California Senior Legislature, the California Senior Leadership Alliance, and Relay for Life. Commissioner Elizabeth Payne joined LACCOA in March 2015.



### **CARMEN REYES**

Commissioner Carmen Reyes currently works as Director of Community Relations and Outreach at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), David Geffen School of Medicine, Division of Geriatrics, Los Angeles Community Academic Partnership in Research in Aging (L.A. CAPRA). She serves as Commissioner on the State of California Commission on Aging, and is a member of the Los Angeles Aging Advocacy Coalition (LAAAC). Commissioner Carmen Reyes joined LACCOA in April 2017.



### **HELEN ROMERO SHAW**

Commissioner Helen Romero Shaw currently works as a Public Affairs Manager. She is a member of United Latino, Rosemead Chamber Board of Directors, Alhambra Chamber Board of Directors, and East Los Angeles College Foundation Board of Directors. She was awarded the Breaking Glass Ceiling Award by the Latina Golfers Association and the Women of Distinction Award given by Business Life Magazine. She joined LACCOA in June 2015.



### **MARY ALICE SEDILLO**

Commissioner Mary Alice Sedillo is a retired Real Estate Broker. She currently serves as Chair for the Long Beach Senior Citizens Advisory Commission and Treasurer of the Gray Panthers. Her memberships include California Alliance for Retired Americans, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, San Pedro Chamber of Commerce, and Congress of California Seniors. She joined LACCOA in November 2016.



### **ARVIS SPRIGGS**

Commissioner Arvis Spriggs is a retired Operational Network Technician. She dedicates her time serving the older adults in Inglewood, California, rotating between four senior centers. Commissioner Spriggs is also a member of the City of Inglewood Senior Advisory Committee and Senior Project Advisory Council. In 2007 she received the Older American Recognition Day Award in recognition of her outstanding volunteer service. She joined LACCOA in January 2016.



### **PATRICIA STANYO**

Commissioner Patricia Stanyo is a retired teacher. She served as Chairman for United Teachers of Los Angeles (UTLA) Harbor Area and Long Beach Gray Panthers. She also served as Vice President for the California Alliance of Retired Americans. She is a member of the Los Angeles County Democratic Party Committee and the California Democratic Party Executive Board. Commissioner Patricia Stanyo joined LACCOA in March 2015.



### **DANCINGWATER TAYLOR**



### LAVADA THEUS

Commissioner Lavada Theus is a retired school administrator. Her desire to assist in making the lives of older adults easier led her to volunteer with the California Senior Legislature, where she currently serves as Chairperson. She is also Co-chair of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Supervisorial District Senior Services Committee for Empowerment Congress. Commissioner Lavada Theus joined LACCOA in January 2017.



### ELVIA TORRES

Commissioner Elvia Torres is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. Her organizational memberships include California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists, Oversight Board Member for the City of La Puente, and Board Member of the California Association of Alcohol and Drug Programs Executives. In 2015, she was recognized as Woman of the Year by Assemblyman Roger Hernandez. Commissioner Elvia Torres joined LACCOA in March 2015.



### CHARLES TREVIÑO

Commissioner Charles Treviño is a retired Public Affairs Representative, teacher for the Los Angeles Unified School District, Director for the Metropolitan Water District, and former Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Commission for the City of South Pasadena. He received multiple awards of recognition from the California State Legislature, State Board of Equalization, Los Angeles Board of Education, and the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors. He joined LACCOA in August 2014.

### SANDRA TUNG

### MARIA WIEST



### **TANYA WITT**

Commissioner Tanya Witt, joined LACCOA in April of 2016. She is the National Community Center Policy Manager at the Los Angeles LGBT Center. Commissioner Witt received her Gerontology certification from the USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology and is working on her Master's in Public Health.



### **RICHARD WOLFE**

Commissioner Richard Wolfe is a retiree of the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services/Health Facilities. He holds a PhD in Health Care Administration. Commissioner Wolfe was recognized for his service from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the City of Los Angeles Department of Aging. Commissioner Richard Wolfe joined LACCOA in July 2014.



### **CANDACE YEE**

Commissioner Candace (Candy) Yee was a Special Education Home Teacher for 37 years. She has been appointed to the City of Cerritos Let Freedom Ring Committee for nine years. Candy, as a member of the Women's Club of Artesia-Cerritos, tutors children weekly at the Artesia Library. She is involved in helping two U.S.C. organizations raise funds for scholarships. Candy has been a volunteer usher at the Cerritos Center of the Performing Arts Center for 25 years.



### **SYLVIA YOUNGBLOOD**

Commissioner Sylvia Youngblood is the Co-founder and Southern California Administrator of the Community Advisory Committee Leadership Collaborative (CACLC), a grassroots organization dedicated to connecting CAC's across California and raising awareness in the special needs community on the importance of the legislative process, community involvement, and decision making. Sylvia is a strong supporter of giving back, positive, effective and meaning collaborations, advancing forward, and most important bridging and filling the gaps to strengthen and build positive role models and leaders within our special needs community.